

Message Text

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42

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DRAFTED BY ARA;LA:APU:FVORTIZ:PR

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

L/ARA:DAGANTZ

S/S-O:P.JOHNSON

ARA/LA/PAF:BBELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174882

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE SHIPS IN THE CUBAN TRADE: PROPOSED

PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 171007

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR EMBASSY COMMENT DRAFT CONTINGENCY
PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE ON AN IF-
ASKED BASIS ONLY.

2. Q. IS IT TRUE THAT AS A RESULT OF THE ARGENTINE-CUBAN
CREDIT AGREEMENT, ARGENTINE SHIPS ARE ENGAGED IN THE CUBAN
TRADE?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME ARGENTINE SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT
CUBAN PORTS.

Q: DOESN'T THE AID BILL PROVIDE THAT COUNTRIES WHICH
ALLOW THEIR SHIPS TO ENGAGE IN TRADE WITH CUBA CANNOT
RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES?

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A: SECTION 620(A)(3) PROVIDES THAT NO FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THE FAA ARE TO BE USED TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE TO

COUNTRIES WHICH FAIL TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT THEIR SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT FROM CARRYING EQUIPMENT, MATERIELS OR COMMODITIES TO OR FROM CUBA.

Q: CAN YOU VERIFY THAT WE HAVE IMPOSED SANCTIONS UNDER SECTION 620(A)(3) OF THE FAA AGAINST ARGENTINA BECAUSE ARGENTINE VESSELS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE CUBA TRADE?

A: THE APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 620(A)(3) DOES NOT ARISE SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOA HAS MADE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNDING MILITARY TRAINING.

Q: BUT HASN'T THE GOA BEEN AN AID RECIPIENT? WHEN DID SUCH AID STOP?

A: IN 1970 WE MUTUALLY AGREED WITH THE GOA THAT IN VIEW OF ARGENTINA'S GOOD ECONOMIC POSITION AND FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PHASE OUT OUR SMALL GRANT AID PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTRY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW AID OBLIGATIONS IN ARGENTINA SINCE 1972. WITH RESPECT TO GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WE STOPPED PROVIDING MATERIEL ON A GRANT BASIS IN 1968 AND ARGENTINA ACQUIRES MATERIEL IN THE U.S. THROUGH DIRECT PURCHASE. IN LINE WITH THE FOREGOING TREND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOA ALSO PLANS TO BEGIN FUNDING MILITARY TRAINING WHICH IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM THE U.S. ON A GRANT BASIS.

3. OBVIOUSLY BEFORE WE COULD USE THIS PRESS GUIDANCE WE MUST KNOW ANSWER TO QUESTION POSED IN PARA 4 REF STATE TEL.

4. EMBASSY WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THIS DRAFT GUIDANCE BECOMES OPERATIVE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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